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# AGAWAM

## ADVERTISER NEWS

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## Council approves \$96M operating budget

*The budget includes a \$47M spending package for the public schools*

By Gregory A. Scibelli  
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AGAWAM – With the state beginning to open up, so has local government.

The most recent meeting of the Agawam City Council was held with the actual council

present with each other, though public participation remains limited, with public comments only allowed during the meeting through email submitted in advance of the meeting.

The June 15 meeting included the passage of the FY2021 budget. Council Vice President Cecilia Calabrese said the budget was fiscally responsible even though there is a wild card.

“We don’t know what the local aid is going to look like,” said Ca-

labrese. “We also have to keep an eye on what FY22 looks like.”

“I think the mayor and his department heads have put forth a reasonable budget given the current climate.”

Councilor George Bitzas said the budget was a great budget and was level-funded.

“I believe and hope there will be no big surprises,” said Bitzas. “I hope the full council will support it. It involves a fully funded education and police department.”

He referenced recent demonstrations in the “Black Lives Matter” movement. He said he did not have an issue with peaceful demonstrations, but would take issue with any defunding of the police department, which has taken place in some communities.

He also complimented the lack of fee increases.

Councilor Dino Mercadante echoed the comments, saying he also planned to support it.

The budget was passed unanimously, with Councilor Gina Letellier the only councilor attending via conference call. All 11 councilors voted on the budget.

Unlike previous years, no cuts were made to the budget. The council cut \$500,000 from last year’s budget, including removing \$250,000 from the school budget.

“The budget represents a team effort,” said Mayor William Sapelli in his summary. He thanked sev-

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### Earning Honors



Anthony DePalma is a proud award winner. See page 12 for more photos.  
SUBMITTED PHOTOS

## Virtual summer camp set to begin

By Shelby Macri  
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AGAWAM – The Agawam Public Schools has planned and started a virtual summer camp for science and engineering, and it’s being offered for students in Kindergarten through sixth grade. The program will begin on Monday July 6, and anyone interested can contact Tammy Rumprik for questions and registration.

Rumprik is the founder and director of the program and has worked for the Agawam Public Schools for more than 20 years, and she will be leading and guiding the program this year. “The program for camp SEEK is usually guided by three Agawam educators with a combined total of over fifty years of teaching experience,” Rumprik said. “I have expertise in special education, elementary education, science, and engineer-

ing. There may also be guest educators at some of the workshops too.”

Camp SEEK is primarily science, technology, and engineering oriented but there are many enrichment activities that cross the curriculum. Art and music activities are also a part of the program, along with doing some experiments with science and food where cooking components will be incorporated into the lesson. Due to safety concerns this year’s Camp SEEK will be virtual compared to its traditional hands-on program that uses groups to learn.

“It would be difficult to build and create in groups under the current health and safety guidelines,” Rumprik said. “I wanted to make sure that the program would not be diminished in any

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## Sheriff’s Office donates face shields and masks to town companies

AGAWAM – In an effort to assist companies and their staff of Western Massachusetts safely get back to business amid the COVID-19 pandemic, the Hampden County Sheriff’s Office gave out protective face shields and masks on June 16.

Sheriff Nick Cocchi and Agawam Mayor William Sapelli were joined by State Sen. John Velis at Dental Studio Associates to help distribute the face shields and masks to Dr. Andrew Fallen, and Dr. Joseph Walz.

The materials were donated by the recently formed Western Massachusetts 3D-Printing Collaborative of local high school students led by Sontino Allentuck of Longmeadow. The face shields

were assembled at the Sheriff’s Department’s Main Institution in Ludlow and at the Old Armory Grille in Springfield.

The distribution of face shields is the latest effort by the department to bridge the gap between the need for personal protective equipment and the supply in Massachusetts. The York Street Industries program has to date produced more than 45,000 masks, about 1,200 face shields, and more than 500 gowns to help get PPE to people who need it most. The department has provided protective face masks for all inmates and staff members at every jail in the Commonwealth, at correctional institutions across New

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Mayor William Sapelli, Sheriff Nick Cocchi, State Sen. John Velis give out face coverings to Dr. Andrew Fallen, and Dr. Joseph Walz of Dental Studio Associates. SUBMITTED PHOTOS



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Chamber names new executive board

AGAWAM – With the Government mandated social distancing restrictions in place, The West of the River Chamber Virtual Annual Meeting and Town Updates was a virtual event this year. “We feel we needed to continue to move forward in this new environment, and show our business community that we are here, active and supporting our members during this time,” says Executive Director, Robin Wozniak. The “Zoom” event took place on Tuesday, June 23, from 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Thanking the outgoing Chairman, Ryan McLane of McLane & McLane in Agawam, and welcoming Scott Haselkorn of Haselkorn, Inc. as the new incoming Chairman. Along with the new Chairman, Haselkorn is joined by Jaime Smith from Westfield Bank as the new incoming Vice Chairwoman and Clerk, and also Dan D’Angelo from the West Springfield Boys & Girls Club as the incoming Treasurer. The

West of the River Chamber Board of Directors wanted to give back to its members this year during the online event. They awarded (3) \$500 Business Grants during the event that morning. The winners of the Business Grants were Tiger Web Designs of East Longmeadow, CHH Engraving of Agawam & The Ronald McDonald House of Springfield. “Times are different now, and many businesses are struggling. We understand this and wanted to give back” says Wozniak. The event also had a “Cyber Security and Beyond”, Guest speaker- Amy Wood, and Mayor Bill Sapelli, and Mayor Will Reichelt gave town updates on the budgets and the Morgan Sullivan Bridge project. The next West of the River Chamber virtual event will be Aug. 4 with their Annual Job Fair from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Vendor Registration and attendee Registration can be found on their website: westoftheriverchamber.com

Water quality report released

AGAWAM – The Agawam Water Department has released its 2019 Water Quality Report (Consumer Confidence Report). Residents should soon receive a copy in the mail. If the report is not received or you would like an additional copy, please contact John Decker at (413) 821-0600. Additional copies are available at the Town Hall, Health Department, Senior Center, Agawam Public Library, Police headquarters, Fire headquarters, or online at www.agawam.us/ccr

ARREST LOG

The Agawam Police Department responded to 451 calls for service from June 22 to June 28 and recorded the following arrests. No arrests in the public log have been omitted. All suspects are innocent until proven guilty.

Tuesday, June 23

Nathaniel Lourake, 40, of Warren, was arrested at 9:03 p.m. for possession of a Class B drug, possession with intent to distribute a Class A drug, and carrying a dangerous weapon.

Wednesday, June 24

Nicholas Boucher, 27, of 1008 Main St., Agawam, was arrested at 6:08 p.m. for possession of Class A and B drugs.

Thursday, June 25

Mark Kirk, 59, of 248 Ware St., Palmer, was arrested at 11:34 a.m. on a warrant.

Mark Berkowitz, 33, of 17 Cambridge St., Agawam, was arrested at 10:29 p.m. for operating with a suspended license, possession of Class B and E drugs, failure to stop for a police officer, operating with a suspended license, failure to signal, and possessing an open container of alcohol.

Friday, June 26

Timothy Tomala, 32, of 46 Beekman Dr., Agawam, was arrested at 10:02 p.m. on a warrant.

Unemployment claims decrease over prior week

Massachusetts had 29,984 individuals file an initial claim for standard Unemployment Insurance from June 7 to June 13, a decrease of 14,676 over the previous week, the Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development reports.

Since March 15, a total of 998,883 initial claims have been filed for UI. Following two consecutive weeks of decline, continued UI claims at 569,434 was up 3,541 from the previous week.

At 15,892, Pandemic Unemployment Assistance initial claims filed for the week ending June 13 were 5,099 less than the previous week, the third week in a row. Since April 20, 609,960 claimants have filed an initial claim for PUA.

The Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation, which provided up to 13 weeks of extended benefits was implemented on May 21. For the week ending June 13, 3,647 PEUC initial claims were filed bringing the total of PEUC filings to 50,592 since implementation.

Since March, the customer service staff at the Department of Unemployment Assistance has grown from around 50 employees to nearly 2000. The remote customer service operation is now making over 35,000 individual contacts per day and DUA continues to host unemployment town halls – which have been held in English, Spanish, and Portuguese – and have been attended by around 350,000 constituents.

Massachusetts RMV encouraging customers to renew licenses online now; upgrade to Real ID in 2021 for free

Customers who renew standard license online at Mass.Gov/RMV before August 12<sup>th</sup> will have \$25 Real ID upgrade fee waived upon future return visit to a Service Center

The Massachusetts Registry of Motor Vehicles (RMV) is encouraging all eligible customers to renew their standard Massachusetts driver’s license or Massachusetts ID card online at Mass.Gov/RMV any time between now and August 12, 2020, in order to qualify for a free upgrade to a REAL ID credential in 2021. This one-time, time limited offer is available to most customers who have an expired or expiring license or ID card dated between March 2020 and August 2021, as renewals are allowed up to two years after expiration, or up to a year in advance of the expiration date printed on their license or ID.

“The RMV is encouraging all of our customers to stay safe, save time, and go online during the COVID-19 pandemic to renew their license or ID card, rather than attempting to come in to get a REAL ID,” said RMV Registrar Jamey Tesler. “Over 500,000 people have a license or ID credentials that expires this summer that can be renewed online, and we hope they will all take advantage of this one-time offer for a free, future upgrade to allow the RMV to prioritize ‘social-distancing’ and other essential transactions that may only be completed in-person.”

Qualifying customers who complete their renewal online prior to August 12<sup>th</sup> and wish to upgrade to a REAL ID for free, will have to wait until at least February 2021 to visit an RMV Service Center. At this time, customers will not need a federally-compliant REAL ID for the purposes of boarding domestic flights prior to October 1, 2021 because the federal government delayed the compliance effective date by one-year. The fee for obtaining a standard or REAL ID license is \$50, while the fee for obtaining a standard or REAL ID card is \$25. The typical \$25 upgrade / amendment fee will be waived under these qualifying circumstances. A limited digital campaign - “Stay Safe, Save Time, Go Online” - will also accompany this promotion and can be viewed at this link: https://youtu.be/B3NuHgTwa3Q

Obtaining an initial federally-compliant Real ID requires all customers to visit a Service Center in-person to present verifying documents. The RMV has introduced this initiative and fee waiver pursuant to Executive Order 39 issued by Governor Baker on June 12, 2020, and in light of the COVID-19 public health emergency to encourage ‘social-distancing’ and limit unnecessary travel by reducing the need for many customers to visit a Service Center, and

allowing for the prioritization of essential in-person needs by appointment-only.

Customers should take the following steps to determine their online renewal eligibility and to qualify for this offer:

- Visit Mass.Gov/RMV, login to your “myRMV” account, and find out if they are permitted to renew online.
- Renew online by August 12<sup>th</sup> - your new standard license or ID card will be sent to you via U.S. Mail.
- The cost for renewing a driver’s license is \$50. The cost for renewing an ID card is \$25. These costs are the same for both a standard or REAL ID license or ID card. The cost for upgrading or amending a license or ID card outside of your renewal cycle is \$25, which will be waived for participating, eligible RMV customers.

• Customers who renew online will have to wait until at least February 2021 to make an appointment for a REAL ID and have their \$25 upgrade / amendment fee waived. Anyone who holds a valid U.S. passport or other federally-compliant form of identification may never need a RMV-issued Real ID.

• As a service to its members, AAA continues to issue REAL ID credentials for their members only and members should make an appointment before visiting an AAA location.

While the RMV has previously announced the below automatic extensions to certain expiring licenses and ID cards, all eligible customers are encouraged to take advantage of this offer by renewing online prior to August 12<sup>th</sup>.

- Driver’s licenses and ID cards that expired or will expire in March, April, and May 2020 will now expire in September 2020.
- Driver’s licenses and ID cards that will expire in June have been extended until October 2020.
- Driver’s licenses and ID cards that will expire in July have been extended until November 2020.
- Driver’s licenses and ID cards that will expire in August have been extended until December 2020.

All RMV customers are encouraged to visit www.Mass.Gov/RMV to renew their license or ID card, and complete one of over 40 other transactions available online, by mail, or by phone.

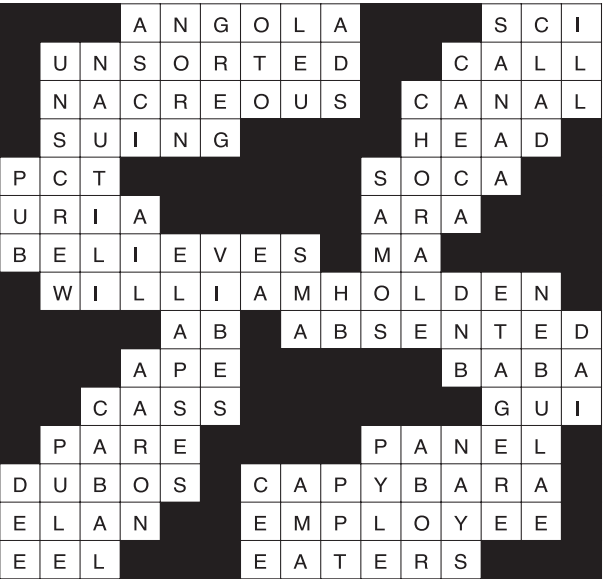
For details on these and other credential expiration date extensions and additional information on RMV service offerings during the COVID-19 pandemic, please visit www.mass.gov/rmv or https://www.mass.gov/info-details/rmv-covid-19-information.

Health Records to be destroyed

AGAWAM – Agawam Public School Health Records for former students that either graduated or left the school system between Sept 2014 and June 2015 will have their school health records destroyed as permitted by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Anyone wishing a copy of their health records must contact the nurse within the school they last attended before July 3, 2020.

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# Big E cancelled

### Staff Report

SPRINGFIELD – The staff and trustees of Eastern States Exposition have made the decision to cancel the 2020 Big E for the safety of our fairgoers, staff, vendors, entertainers, exhibitors, sponsors, suppliers and the broader community according to a press release Monday.

There is precedent in the Exposition's 104-year history when the fair was put on hold during WWI and for five years during WWII. We've made it through difficult times before...the Flood of 1936...the Hurricane of 1938 and, 9-11, and together "we'll get through these unprecedented times as well," according to the press release.

"We know our faithful fairgoers will be disappointed," the release reads. "This decision was difficult and complex but we all know in our hearts that it's the right thing to do for the health and safety of the 1.6 million people who support us each year."

The next Big E will be from September 17 to October 3, 2021.

All purchases for the Zach Williams concert, scheduled for September 20, will be refunded in full. The Big E Box Office will be contacting ticket purchasers directly.

# Baker files bill to implement officer certification system

BOSTON – The Baker-Polito Administration recently filed legislation to create a framework for certifying Massachusetts law enforcement officers, provide accountability, ensure that police departments in and outside Massachusetts have access to candidates' training and disciplinary records, and provide incentives for officers to pursue advanced training to better serve their communities.

"This bill will create a more modern, transparent and accountable system for law enforcement credentialing and training. It will provide police departments with the tools they need to build trust and strong relationships with every community across the commonwealth-at a time when we need it most," said Gov. Charlie Baker. "We are grateful for the Black and Latino Caucus' and Public Safety officials' collaboration on this bill, and look forward to working with the Legislature to get it passed."

The bill, "An Act to Improve Police Officer Standards and Accountability and to Improve Training," would for the first time require police officers statewide to be certified and it would allow for decertification, suspension of certification, or reprimand in the event of certain misconduct. The bill would also create the Police Officer Standards and Accreditation Committee, which would be comprised of law enforcement and civilian representatives, at least half of whom would be required to be persons of color.

The bill would charge the POSA Committee with the responsibility of certifying all law enforcement officials, including those from non-municipal departments serving transit agencies, colleges and other entities. The bill would also require the Committee to create a database of certified officers, ensure that training and misconduct records are available to officers' current and future employers, and develop a standardized background check for those seeking employment with a new police department. The background check would include a check of the POSA database and the National Decertification Index.

Finally, the bill would provide incentives for law enforcement officers who pursue advanced training in relevant skills and specialties beyond the levels required of all police officers. Such training would include foreign languages, advanced domestic violence and sexual assault response, advanced de-escalation techniques and other high-level proficiencies.

# Saccomani to run for Register of Probate

SPRINGFIELD – Rosemary Saccomani of Agawam is announcing her candidacy for Hampden County Register of Probate. Rosemary is a lifelong Democrat with 30 years of professional experience working in the Hampden County Probate office. For 18 years she has served as Deputy Assistant Register.

"I am running for this elected position because it requires much more than mere administrative capabilities," said Rosemary Saccomani. "The Register of Probate requires active and flexible leadership to innovate essential improvements to the office throughout these challenging times; it requires a profound knowledge of the duties and responsibilities of the Probate office; it requires effective managerial competence to adjust to the changing technological processes and timely delivery of services during and after this pandemic. I believe I possess these qualifications in abundance to serve all Hampden County residents as their Register of Probate."

The Registry of Probate's office is responsible as the official keeper of the records and the day to day operation of the county's Probate & Family Court. The Family Court deals with issues such as adoptions, estates, divorce, guardianship, custody, child support, name changes and abuse preventions. Rosemary has 30 years of professional experience working in the Probate office and has performed as a Case Coordinator/Team leader, Administrative Assistant, and Sessions Clerk. In 2012, she was appointed MUPC Magistrate. Her professional experiences also include Adjunct Instructor at Westfield University and certification as a Family Court Mediator.



Rosemary Saccomani

The current Hampden County Register of Probate is not running for re-election and the seat is open. Saccomani has filed papers with the Secretary of State to be placed on the ballot this fall in the Democratic primary.

"As Register of Probate, I will be passionately committed to the operation of the office," said Saccomani. "I will activate my knowledge of probate matters and common-sense approach to make the office user-friendly for all the diverse residents of Hampden County. As your Register of Probate, I will be visible and accessible to all residents of Hampden County."

Rosemary was born in Springfield to Salvatore and Maureen Scibelli and grew up in Agawam with her brother Andrew Scibelli and sister Marissa Scibelli Greider. She is a proud mother of two sons—Michael, a special education teacher, and Anthony, a mental health counselor. She is an active participant in the community having served as a member of the Agawam Democratic Town Committee, Make a Wish Foundation of Western Massachusetts, and President of St. Stanislaus School PTO in Chicopee.

"I am passionate about the Hampden County Probate Office and I love the job", Saccomani says. "With 30 years' experience in the Probate office and 18 years as Deputy, I am uniquely qualified for this position. As the Hampden County Register of Probate, I will serve with integrity; I will lead with confidence; I will manage with professionalism. I will be ready to start on day one."

The primary election will take place on September 1, 2020.

# Library to have online-only summer reading

AGAWAM – This summer our Summer Reading Program will be entirely online. If you'd like to see a pdf with all the information for the entire Summer Reading click here. It is a lot of information so we've created: Summer Reading Simplified:

- 1- Go to <https://agawamlibrary.beanstack.org/> to register for the Summer Reading Program. An adult can enter the information for each child. The website we are using is called Beanstack. If you need help call us at 413-789-1550 ext. 3
- 2- Use the Beanstack website to log reading. You decide how often you will log reading. It could be every day, every other day or once a week. For every 2 days of reading you earn an electronic badge. After 5 days of reading you will be entered to win that week's raffle prize.
- 3- Go to <https://www.agawamlibrary.org/children/> to

see the activities for that week. The weekly activities will also be sent through these weekly emails.

4- Some events will be held over Zoom and require registration. When you register you must include an email address. We will send the Zoom log in information to the email address you give us. Please download the Zoom app before the date of the Zoom event.

5- You can also check what's happening by going to our Calendar of Events found at this website: <http://www.eventkeeper.com/mars/xpages/A/AGAWAM/ekmonth.cfm>

Click the link below to view our Summer Reading Promotion Video: [https://mcusercontent.com/836ce6fb57bd-3c0d5ab748e9b/files/22394997-70fa-4fff-9fa9-5c87ba050078/SR\\_2020\\_movie\\_ad.mp4](https://mcusercontent.com/836ce6fb57bd-3c0d5ab748e9b/files/22394997-70fa-4fff-9fa9-5c87ba050078/SR_2020_movie_ad.mp4)

# United Way begins distributing hundreds of boxes of food

SPRINGFIELD – Starting on Tuesday, June 30, the United Way of Pioneer Valley will start distributing hundreds of boxes of shelf stable food items to community partner agencies for distribution to potentially thousands of needy clients during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The boxes of shelf-stable food have been secured through United Way's relationship with MEMA as they distribute food throughout the Commonwealth in response to the ongoing pandemic. The first truckload will arrive at our headquarters at 1441 Main Street, Springfield on June 30 at 10 a.m., and media are welcome to attend.

Paul Mina, President and CEO of United Way of Pioneer Valley, said, "We are honored to play a part in the Commonwealth's COVID-19 response efforts. We have worked with MEMA closely in their relief efforts for Hampden County and are happy to continue to help."

United Way of Pioneer Valley mobilizes people and resources to strengthen our communities. We target the community's most pressing needs and focus resources, community partnerships, and the energy of volunteers to create measurable results.

For more information, visit [uwpv.org](http://uwpv.org).

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# Opinion

## OUR VIEW

### Leave fireworks alone this year

Everyone loves a celebration with a bang.

Whether it's the pop of a champagne cork, the slam of car doors from anticipated party guests, to colorful and patriotic displays of fireworks, seemingly anything worth celebrating ends up with some form of explosive behavior. And what's not to love? Especially on the Fourth of July, the celebration of our nation's independence, there's something special about seeing prolonged, kaleidoscopic displays of fireworks; about hearing the thunderous applause; about feeling the booms, pops and cracks, sometimes from miles away.

Such celebrations truly are spectacular, full-body, sensory experiences. Especially when you don't have to work the next morning. But fireworks, being explosive, are also spectacularly dangerous even when handled appropriately, and this year, with restrictions placed on social gatherings, most permitted displays by licensed professionals have been canceled or postponed to a date to be determined.

The state's Division of Fire Services and Fire Marshal Peter Ostroskey reminds residents that fireworks are illegal to possess and transport into Massachusetts, even if legally purchased elsewhere. More importantly, the week of the holiday is historically among the busiest times for fires and children younger than 15-years-of-age account for one-third of the severe burn injuries that require hospital visits.

According to DFS data, in the past decade, there have been 858 major fires and explosions resulting in 12 civilian injuries, 40 fire service injuries and an estimated dollar loss of \$2.9 million.

Last year, on July 2, 2019, the Taunton Fire Department was called to a fire in a single-family home. The fire began while the homeowner was building wooden racks to launch illegal fireworks from his deck. The racks surrounded him on the deck. One of the fireworks exploded and set off many other fireworks. The detonations ignited the deck. Two days later on the Fourth of July, the Boston Fire Department was called to a fire in a three-unit apartment building. The fire was started by fireworks on the front porch. The following day, July 5, 2019, Boston Fire again responded to a three-unit apartment building when neighbors reported fireworks ignited a fire. The fire began on the back of one building and extended to another three-unit apartment building next door. Twenty people were displaced from their homes by the fires and damages were in excess of \$700,000.

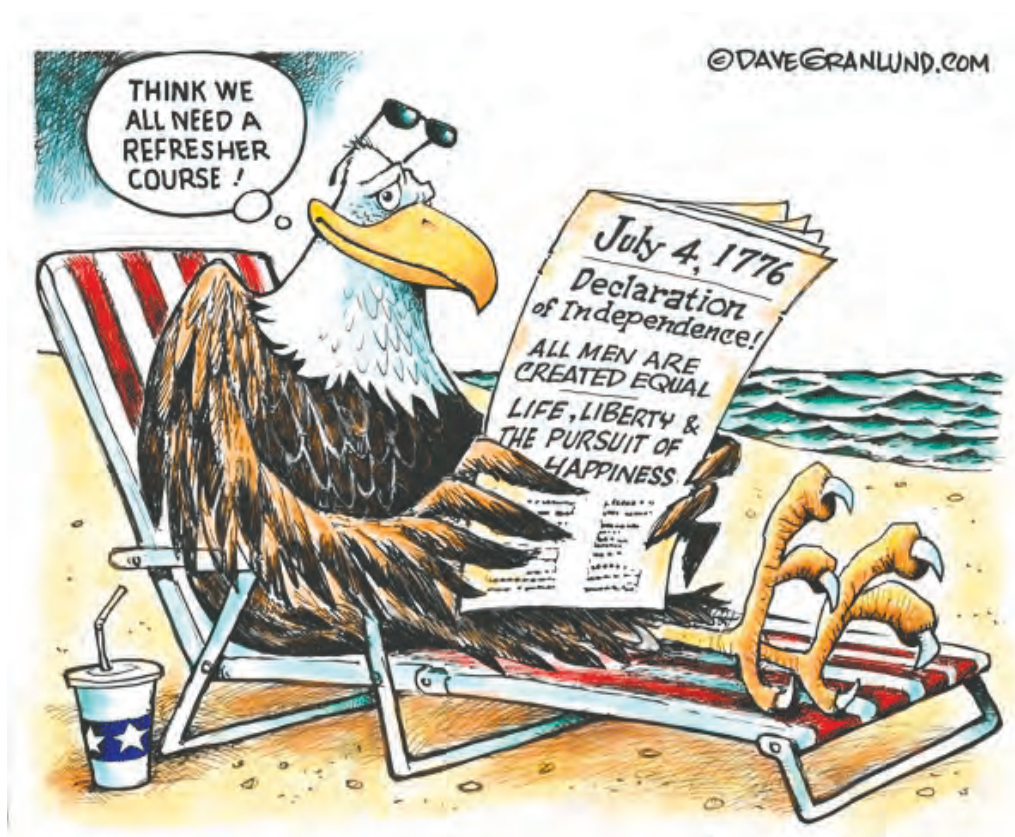
More than a fire hazard, igniting fireworks also poses serious safety risks that can result in injury or death. Even when handled properly by professional crews, explosives don't always go off according to plan and the results can be catastrophic.

According to DFS data, from 2010 to 2019, 37 people have been treated at Massachusetts emergency rooms for severe burn injuries from fireworks – burns covering 5 percent or more of the body. Thirty-three percent were children age 14 or younger. An additional 22 percent were youth aged 15-24. The youngest victim was a 7-month old boy. Victims are scarred for life.

Last year, a 29-year old Charlton man received burns to 9 percent of his body and puncture wounds to his back from a fireworks explosion. State Police confiscated a large cache of illegal fireworks from his home. A 4-year-old Boston girl received severe burns to her hand when grabbing a lit sparkler someone else was holding.

The possession and use of all fireworks by private citizens is illegal in Massachusetts. This includes Class C fireworks, which are sometimes falsely called "safe and sane" fireworks. Class C fireworks include sparklers, party poppers, snappers, firecrackers, spinners and cherry bombs. Sparklers burn at 1,800 F or higher. It is illegal to transport fireworks into Massachusetts, even if they were purchased legally elsewhere. Illegal fireworks must be confiscated on the spot.

This year, there is much to celebrate, particularly as the state is seemingly making progress in the fight against the novel coronavirus. Celebrate explosively with friends and family, following public health guidelines, of course. Just leave the real explosives behind and give our emergency responders a break. Together, let's have a safe, healthy and happy Fourth of July.



## Saluting John Philip Sousa and "Stars and Stripes Forever"

On July 4, 1776, the "Declaration of Independence" was signed declaring our young country's independence from Great Britain. Since 1777, in unofficial and later, with official state and national holidays, families, groups, communities and cities all across the United States of America celebrate our independence with various events.

As part of many public events, wherever John Philip Sousa's famous "The Stars and Stripes Forever" is played-- whether in a majestic concert hall, in a school's auditorium or in a parade-marching band-- hearts beat faster, eyes well with tears, hands applaud and salute.

In 1854, America's "March King," composer/conductor Sousa, was born in Washington, D.C. to European immigrant parents: his father of Portuguese parents and his mother of Bavarian parents. John's father played the trombone in the U.S. Marine Band. Growing up John studied and played many instruments. He heard military music in his home as well as in public places.

Sousa attended the Marine band rehearsals with his father, and became an apprentice musician. He joined the Marines at age 26, and became the Marine Band Director for 12 years. In 1892 he started his own Sousa Band and toured American with astounding success.

Often we learn that a personal, heart-wrenching or life-altering event births an emotional response. So it was with the arrival of tragic news in the 40 year-old life of John Philip Sousa.

In 1896, when vacationing in Europe with his wife Jane, and family, Sousa received the terrible news that his good friend and band manager, David Blakely, had died. Immediately he made

plans to return to America. While pacing the S.S. Teutonic steamer's deck, the first stirring notes of "Stars and Stripes Forever" kept echoing in his mind. His biography states, "...absorbed in thoughts of my manager's death and the many duties and decision which awaited me in New York...I began to sense a rhythmic beat of a band playing within my brain. Throughout the whole tense voyage, that imaginary band continued... re-echoing the most distant melody."

Sousa didn't, or perhaps couldn't, pen a note of music until reaching shore. Then he wrote each measure that his "brain-band played" without a single note ever being changed.

On May 14, 1897, Sousa's first performance in Philadelphia aroused patriotism. The audience stood! A tradition was born! Former Sousa Band members said they were always inspired "by looking into the misty eyes of those in the audience."

In 1917, as America entered World War I, Sousa, then 62, reenlisted, but in the U.S. Naval Reserve. He formed and directed a musical battalion, marched across America in parades raising millions of dollars for the war effort.

When Sousa was asked about his patriotism, he would emotionally reply that his "Stars and Stripes Forever" music was divinely inspired.

On July 4th or whenever and wherever you hear John Philip Sousa's "Stars and Stripes Forever" played, remember the famous patriotic composer and conductor. Stand and patriotically applaud and salute the former Marine and Navy serviceman who loved the United States of America, its red, white and blue flag, and displayed it through his music.

### GUEST COLUMNIST



JOAN E. B. COOMBS

## Weed less by planting groundcovers

It's amazing the amount of growth crabgrass can put on in just a matter of weeks. Although it feels like I was just out there weeding, I must admit that some of my gardens are inundated with it. Had I been a better mulcher this past spring, it's likely I wouldn't have this problem. Unfortunately, however, mulch is only a temporary solution to our weeds. To really be effective in our ornamental gardens it must be "refreshed" or top-dressed each year. This can amount to a great expense if large areas of the yard need to be covered. Instead of mulching so much consider using groundcovers. When used appropriately they can keep down the weeds and add another dimension of interest to the landscape. Best of all, there is one to fit every situa-

tion: sun or shade, wet or dry!

One of my favorite groundcovers is Ajuga or bugle weed. It smothers weeds by quickly forming a dense carpet of foliage. The most common type has burgundy leaves and medium blue flower spikes in late spring. Variegated varieties are also available as are those that bloom in white or pink. It hugs the ground except when in flower. Plant in sun or partial shade anywhere that the soil remains evenly moist. Spring or fall division is fine; set new clumps nine inches or more apart.

Another very effective yet underused groundcover is sweet woodruff. Galium odoratum grows to a height of six to eight inches. Leaves are shiny green, and grow

### IN THE GARDEN



Roberta McQuaid  
Columnist

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# Our Town

## Eggleston, Michael Anthony

Michael Anthony Eggleston, 35, was called home on June 3, 2020, after a long struggle with addiction. He was born on February 1, 1985, in Holyoke, and was raised in Agawam.

Mikey had a heart of gold. He truly loved people but couldn't always show his genuine spirit the way he wanted to. He had dimples that would light up a room and blue eyes that glistened like the ocean. He was an athletic kid who spent his childhood on baseball and football fields, in hockey rinks, and on BMX racing tracks. He loved rollerblading, solomn water skiing, kneeboarding, and enjoyed spending his time relaxing on the lake. No matter what sport Mikey was playing, he always shined! He had no fear and loved to try everything life had to offer.

Mikey graduated from Agawam High School in 2003. He loved fashion and always wanted to look his best. He was an avid card player who almost always walked away from the table a winner. He was a loving son, brother, and father, who often showed this essence through his incredible hugs and shoulder massages. He was a beautiful, heartfelt writer who could bring tears to your eyes through his eloquent



words. Addiction does not discriminate, it takes hold, and instantly begins to destroy layers of one's life. Addiction didn't define Mikey, he wanted to live, he had dreams, but the grip was too strong. Mike spent the majority of his adult life living close to the ocean in both Florida and California, where he hoped he could find peace and serenity here on Earth.

Mikey is survived by his daughter, Gemma Eggleston, his parents Kenneth and Debora Eggleston, his sister Amy Martin and her husband, Chad, his brother, Kenny and his wife Beki, his nephews, Brayden and Brody, his nieces, Ravyn, Aysha, and Maci, his two best friends, Dan Hanson and Sean Deglis, as well as many cousins, aunts, uncles, and friends.

Family and friends were invited to an outdoor celebration of life gathering on June 27, 2020 from 10:00 AM to 12:00 at the Westfield Evangelical Free Church, 568 Southwick Road Westfield, MA. Followed by a church service. Donations can be made to "Agawam Police Dare" and mailed to the Agawam Police Department - DARE, 681 Springfield Street, Feeding Hills 01030 in the name of Michael Eggleston.

### GARDEN ■ from page 4

in delicate whorls. When crushed they release a vanilla fragrance. For this reason sweet woodruff was a popular strewing herb during Elizabethan times. It also is the main ingredient in May wine. Tiny, star-shaped flowers are delightful in May and June. Plant in a shady spot where moisture is sufficient. Divisions are best made in the spring months.

Periwinkle or vinca is a well-known groundcover suitable to many locations in the landscape. As long as your soil is well-drained periwinkle will thrive there, whether it be in sun or shade. Shiny, dark green leaves are produced on shoots that root easily along the surface of the soil. In no time at all a thick mat will form, choking out weeds and even desirable plants in its path. Cut back hard or even mow to keep in check. Quarter-sized violet blue flowers cover the foliage in late spring. Divide anytime but remember to water transplants well until they are established.

Lamium or dead nettle is another groundcover of interest. Both its flowers and variegated foliage make it worthy or cultivation. The term "dead" refers to the plants inability to inflict pain when touched, unlike the other nettle, which of course is aptly named stinging nettle. My

two favorite forms of this plant have yellow flowers. Yellow archangel forms more clumps, reaching the height of 10 inches, whereas 'Variegatum' spreads quickly by runners and grows about 14 inches tall. Both have splotched foliage and unique, hooded blooms in late spring. When planted in full sun dead nettle requires moist soil. In shadier locales it tolerates dry soil very well. Utilize it under shade trees where grass will not grow. Underplant with late blooming tulips or daffodils for an incredible show.

For more information on these and other groundcovers, consult "Herbs in Bloom" by Jo Ann Gardner (Timber Press, \$24.95). Great pictures and detailed cultural information will reinvigorate you, even this late in the season, and even if crabgrass has got the best of your garden.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For the last 28 years, she has held the position of staff horticulturalist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to [ekennedy@turley.com](mailto:ekennedy@turley.com) with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.

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## Death Notices

**Eggleston, Michael A.**  
Died June 3, 2020  
Celebration of Life  
June 27, 2020  
Westfield Evangelical  
Free Church

## Agawam Advertiser News OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place.

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$100, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph.

**Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: [obits@turley.com](mailto:obits@turley.com).

*Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.*

## UNH Dean's List

DURHAM, NH – The following students have been named to the Dean's List at the University of New Hampshire for the spring 2020 semester.

Caroline Wysocki of Agawam, MA for earning High Honors. Wysocki is majoring in Occupational Therapy.

Jessica Bonfiglio of Agawam, MA for earning Honors. Bonfiglio is majoring in Occupational Therapy.

Sierra Kruser of Agawam, MA for earning Highest Honors. Kruser is majoring in Neuroscience & Behavior.

Brendan Garvey of Agawam, MA for earning Highest Honors. Garvey is majoring in Earth Sciences.

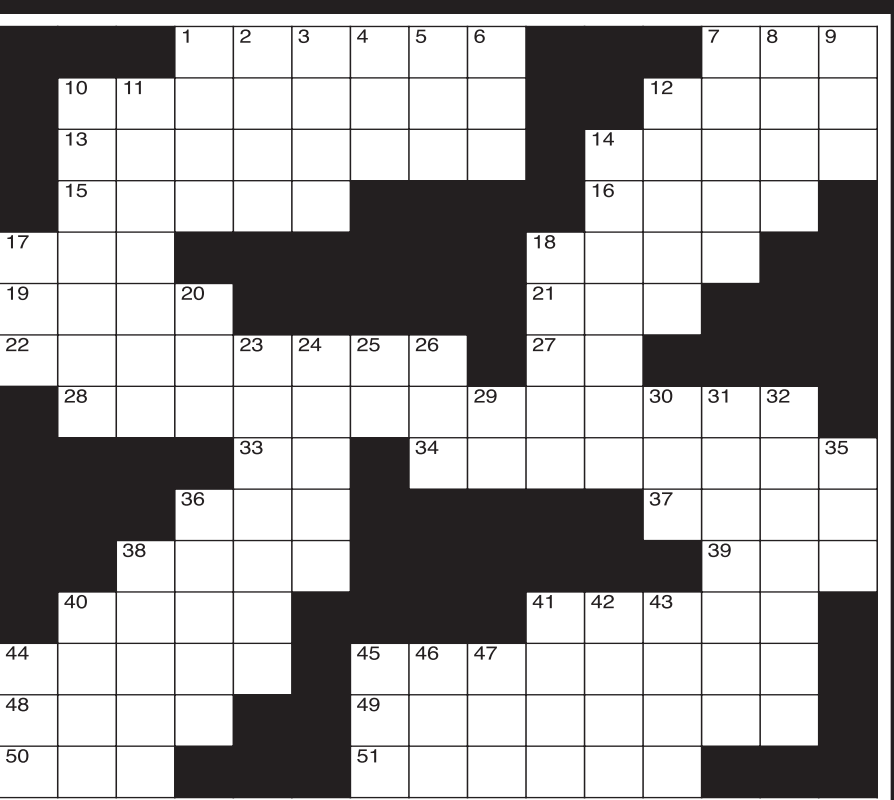
Students named to the Dean's List at the University of New Hampshire are students who have earned recognition through their superior scholastic performance during a semester enrolled in a full-time course load (12 or more graded credits). Highest honors are awarded to students who earn a semester grade point average of 3.85 or better out of a possible 4.0.

## HCC announces dean's list for spring 2020 semester

Headline: HOLYOKE – Each semester Holyoke Community College recognizes superior scholarship through the Dean's List. A student is placed on the Dean's List if their G.P.A. is 3.2 or higher. The students listed below have earned Dean's List honors for the Spring 2020 semester.

Agawam:

Aviella Abramchuk, Ashlee Marie Baskin, Anne Elizabeth Benoit, Christopher Bonneau, Christine Briggs, John Colletto, MaryEllen Conway, Alexander Nick Denisenko, Mary Lynn Diaz, Danielle N. Eickelberg, Samantha Taylor Fett, Emily Isabella Jabry, Daophone Ly, Marissa Ann Mansfield, Sharon Liz Medina, Nathan Gerald Mitchell, Brandon Moore, Angela Kaitlynn Nelson, Nadzeya A. Semenovich, Casey Jane Smith, Veranika Sonich, Emily Taylor, Kira Sage Teece, Yildiz Ucar, Michael Aleksandr Zalivchii.



- CLUES ACROSS**  
1. African nation  
7. \_\_\_ fi (slang)  
10. Not arranged according to size  
12. A demand for a show of hands in a card game  
13. Having a play of lustrous rainbowlike colors  
14. Panama has one  
15. Taking legal action  
16. Top of the body  
17. Part of (abbr.)  
18. Soul and calypso song  
19. Murres  
21. Irish river  
22. Accepts as true  
27. The Bay State  
28. 1950s Hollywood icon  
33. Blood type
34. In a way, became lost  
36. Large primate  
37. A spongelike cake leavened with yeast  
38. Mama \_\_\_, folk singer  
39. Visual metaphor (computers)  
40. Trim by cutting  
41. Small group of people  
44. Pulitzer-winning scientist  
45. Unique S. American mammal  
48. Energy, style and enthusiasm  
49. One who works for you  
50. Snakelike fish  
51. Consumers
- CLUES DOWN**  
1. Cylindrical sacs  
2. Extinct North Germanic language  
3. Late rocker Allman  
4. Word element meaning ear  
5. Amino acid (abbr.)  
6. Promotions  
7. Actress Lathan  
8. Clothed  
9. Unwell  
10. Loosen  
11. Cephalopod mollusks  
12. \_\_\_ at Obdurata: Harmful papal bull  
14. Musical composition  
17. Irish bar  
18. Greek island  
20. Afflict  
23. Goes by
24. Ambience  
25. Video game manufacturer  
26. Surplus Marketing Administration  
29. Football position  
30. Electronic musical style (abbr.)  
31. Furniture with open shelves  
32. Clouds of gas in outer space  
35. Indian midwife  
36. Packers' signal caller  
38. Secret political clique  
40. Cry weakly  
41. Gomer \_\_\_, marine  
42. Academic Bill of Rights  
43. Negatives  
44. Hip hop icon Kool Moe \_\_



# United Way begins distributing hundreds of boxes of food

SPRINGFIELD – Starting on Tuesday, June 30, the United Way of Pioneer Valley will start distributing hundreds of boxes of shelf stable food items to community partner agencies for distribution to potentially thousands of needy clients during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The boxes of shelf-stable food have been secured through United Way’s relationship with MEMA as they distribute food throughout the Commonwealth in response to the ongoing pandemic. The first truckload will arrive at our headquarters at 1441 Main Street, Springfield on June 30 at 10 a.m., and media are welcome to attend.

Paul Mina, President and CEO of United Way of Pioneer Valley, said, “We are honored to play a part in the Commonwealth’s COVID-19 response efforts. We have worked with MEMA closely in their relief efforts for Hampden County and are happy to continue to help.”

United Way of Pioneer Valley mobilizes people and resources to strengthen our communities. We target the community’s most pressing needs and focus resources, community partnerships, and the energy of volunteers to create measurable results.

For more information, visit uwvpv.org.

# DCR announces start of waterfront services across the commonwealth

BOSTON - The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) today announced that several of the agency’s inland and ocean beaches across the Commonwealth will provide waterfront services for the public beginning Saturday, June 20, 2020 in accordance with safety standards issued by the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) as part of Phase II of the Baker-Polito Administration’s reopening plan. Phase II standards include:

Parking lots, people entering the beach, or other factors should be managed, if necessary, to limit beach capacity to accommodate adequate social distancing based on an assessment by the beach manager;

Beach visitors are required to maintain social distancing of at least 6 feet or more at all times and visitors should maintain at least 12 feet minimum distance between towel/blanket areas; and,

No-contact ball games such as catch, kadima, Kan Jam and bocce can be allowed provided that social distancing can be maintained, and group size guidelines followed.

Waterfront services at state beaches include regularly scheduled water quality tests, ropes and buoys in place, and the start of staffing lifeguards at many swimming locations. A complete list of locations with waterfront services can be reviewed on the agency’s website. Furthermore, when visiting state beaches and other state

park properties, DCR asks the public to adhere to the following guidance:

Minimize outdoor recreational time to limit potential exposure to COVID-19;

Stay within solitary or small groups, and avoid gatherings of ten or more people;

Wear a face mask or facial covering when social distancing cannot be practiced;

Administer healthy personal hygiene, such as handwashing for at least 20 seconds;

Participate in only non-contact recreational activities;

Leave a park or facility if large gatherings begin to build; and,

Stay home if ill, over 70, and/or part of a vulnerable population.

Recently, the department opened spray decks, playgrounds, and fitness areas for the public. DCR has also opened Ponkapog Golf Course in the Town of Canton and Leo J. Martin Memorial Golf Course in the Town of Weston. In an effort to reduce the spread of the COVID-19 virus, DCR-managed golf courses have several new measures in place aiding users with social distancing. Additionally, to inform visitors of COVID-19 impacts on the state parks system, DCR created a Massachusetts State Parks COVID-19 Updates webpage. Prior to visiting a state parks property, members of the public should review the contents of the webpage.

## BUDGET ■ from page 1

eral contributors for a fiscally responsible budget.

The budget totals \$96,411,214 with a modest capital improvement budget of \$259,500. Last year’s capital plan was more than \$1.5 million. A number of projects were deferred in the capital plan due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The budget includes an operating budget for the Agawam Public Schools of \$47,042,080. The school budget is increasing by \$718,589, a 1.52 percent increase.

The budget assumes there will be \$65,094,492 raised by the property tax levy.

A surplus of \$1 million is being utilized as well as \$2.5 million in certified free cash.

The police department funding increases by 3 percent, while the fire department is close by with a 2.9 percent increase.

The overall budget is an increase of just 0.3 percent, or \$293,054.

The FY2021 budget goes into effect on July 1.

Calabrese commented during the meeting that changes will likely be needed during FY21 as the state’s picture becomes clearer.



Mayor William Sapelli, Sheriff Nick Cocchi, and State Sen. John Velis show off face coverings donated to the town.

## SHIELDS ■ from page 1

England, and helped equip dozens of police and fire departments, journalists, and staff at nursing homes and hospitals. Addition-

ally, the department is operating the First Responder Recovery Home for front-line workers recovering from COVID-19.

## CAMP ■ from page 1

way and I believe that the best way to educate children is by having them engaged and doing things which would have been hard to do in person this summer.”

Rumplik explains that she and her team will accomplish helping and teaching children in an engaging way even though its virtual. They will accomplish this by having material delivered to the campers’ homes, and then having teachers guiding the campers virtually with the building and manipulating of the materials. The first week of these virtual sessions will be Games Galore where teachers will do a scavenger hunt, bingo, charades, and much more.

“We will be exploring bird beaks in a hands-on activity including drop off kit materials. We will be making a prototype of our own bird design,” Rumplik said. “In our engineering activities we will be making a model out of building bricks, we will be making an air powered vehicle which will include drop off kits too.”

There will still be a large amount of connectivity between campers and teachers, as most workshops will include drop off kits of materials. Rumplik explained that she will also be offering additional optional materials on the Camp SEEK classroom page. There will be experiments to make, read-alouds, videos, and games to play as well. These games will give children a chance to interact with nature and others in a safe and productive way. “I am so excited about the drop off kits, which will

include materials like brick building sets, owl pellets, and mini-erector sets” Rumplik said. “These kits have some really cool and amazing things included in the program. There are not any other programs in town for other grade levels.

The program begins July 6 to 10 with the possibility of offering more workshops at a later date if there is interest in it. Rumplik was able to receive a \$350 grant from the Agawam Cultural Council to purchase the materials that will be dropped off to kids for the camp, so she hopes there is an interest in the workshops.

“I want to emphasize that this is not the same as distance learning at all,” said Rumplik. “The workshops are guided instructions live for the entire 2.5 hour session. There will be several different activities going on during each session that will help kids stay engaged too.”

Rumplik describes this as a hands-on and minds-on program, rather than having kids sit in front of a computer serene for hours.

Parents and students can sign up for Camp SEEK by sending registration forms to Pina Godek at the Central Office of Schools at the junior High School. There is also a form on the webpages for the James Clark School and Granger Elementary Schools page for Rumplik, and she is the K-4 STEAM teacher. Parents can email Rumplik with more questions at [trumplik@agawamed.org](mailto:trumplik@agawamed.org)

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## Free small business legal clinic now accepting applications

SPRINGFIELD – The Western New England University Small Business Legal Clinic is accepting applications from entrepreneurs and small business owners seeking legal assistance for the fall semester 2020. Under faculty supervision, law students assist clients with legal issues including choice of entity, employment policies, contract drafting, regulatory compliance, and intellectual property issues relating to trademark applications and copyright. This is a free service available to local businesses that might not have the resources to obtain such services.

The Small Business Clinic has assisted more than 300 small businesses since it opened. "The Clinic is a great resource for entrepreneurs who lack the finances to retain an attorney," explained Associate Clinical Professor of Law Robert Statchen. "By using the Clinic's services, businesses can avoid problems by getting legal issues addressed early and correctly. It also provides students with a great opportunity to get real world experience."

The Clinic requests small business owners to submit their applications by Aug. 15. Applications received after that date will be considered if additional resources are available. Students will begin providing services in September. For more information, call the Legal Clinic at 413-782-1469 or email Marie Fletcher, Clinical Programs Administrator at mfletcher@law.wne.edu.

The School of Law Small Business Legal Clinic was established to afford law students with an opportunity to provide practical consultation to entrepreneurs starting new and building existing small businesses in the community. This initiative strengthens alliances within the community by using the resources of the University to foster new business development. For more information or to complete an online application, visit <https://www1.wne.edu/law/centers/small-business-legal-clinic.cfm>.

Having just celebrated its Centennial, Western New England University is a private, independent, coeducational institution. Located on an 215-acre suburban campus in Springfield, Western New England serves 3,825 students, including 2,580 full-time undergraduate students. Undergraduate, graduate, and professional programs are offered through Colleges of Arts and Sciences, Business, Engineering, Pharmacy and Health Sciences and the School of Law.

## Lesser attends virtual town hall with ERC5

EAST LONGMEADOW – State Sen. Eric Lesser (D-Longmeadow), recently attended a virtual town hall hosted by the East of the River Five Town Chamber of Commerce, offering legislative updates and answering questions about reopening and recovery in Massachusetts. The conversation was moderated by Joseph Lawler, of Wilbraham, legislative chair of the Executive Committee.

The COVID-19 epidemic has sparked a health crisis along with a dire economic crisis, especially for our small, locally owned businesses and their employees," Lesser said. "It is essential that the state works to support our small business community and their employees, who have faced

widespread closure and layoff due to no fault of their own. Working alongside the ERC5, we must ensure our economy not only recovers, but continues to grow in the months and years ahead."

Nancy Connor, ERC5 executive director, said the organization was happy to have hosted the forum with Lesser, giving the business community a chance to learn the state's plan for reopening safely and efficiently.

"We at the ERC5 appreciate Sen. Lesser's steadfast commitment balancing public health and economic interest when advocating for the best path forward for our business community in Western Mass.," she said.



State Sen. Eric Lesser takes questions from members of the ERC5 during a virtual town hall. TIMES PHOTO SUBMITTED

## U.S. Navy conducts Freedom of Navigation Operation

### Staff Report

CARIBBEAN SEA - While peacefully operating in the Caribbean Sea, the U.S. Navy Arleigh Burke-class guided missile destroyer USS Nitze (DDG 94) conducted a freedom of navigation operation, contesting an excessive maritime claim by Venezuela.

Paul Nitze was born in Amherst and served as the 54th Secretary of the Navy under Lyndon B. Johnson. The USS Nitze is his namesake.

The U.S. Navy ship conducted the operation in international waters outside Venezuela's 12 nautical-mile territorial jurisdiction. During the operation, the ship lawfully navigated an area the illegitimate Maduro regime falsely claims to have control over, a claim that is inconsistent with international law.

The U.S. Navy routinely conducts freedom of navigation operations around the world to preserve the maritime navigation and access rights guaranteed to all nations and

vital to the global mobility of U.S. forces.

Global access to international waters protects U.S. national interests, promotes a just international order, and ensures the U.S. Navy can accomplish key missions, including humanitarian assistance deployments, disaster relief operations, support to international counter-narcotics efforts and multinational exercises that strengthen regional partnerships.

U.S. Navy and Coast Guard ships are currently operating in the Caribbean as part of the President's enhanced counter narcotics operation.

"The United States will continue to fly, sail and operate wherever international law allows, preserving the rights, freedoms and lawful use of the sea and airspace guaranteed to all nations," said Adm. Craig Faller, Commander of U.S. Southern Command. "These freedoms are the bedrock of ongoing security efforts, and essential to regional peace and stability."

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# SPORTS

SUMMER SOCCER

## PVSSL ready to play at start of Phase 3

**By Gregory A. Scibelli**  
*gscibelli@turley.com*

REGION – The Pioneer Valley Summer Soccer League is starting to take shape, and if all goes according to plan, the league will be able to start up just after the Fourth of July holiday.

Registration has now closed for the league for the summer and the full schedule of games is being finalized.

Gov. Charlie Baker wanted two weeks of data from Phase 2, part 2, which was centered on allowing limited indoor dining.

Phase 3, at minimum, could have started earlier this week before the slight delay. But trends have continued to be positive in Massachusetts, as well as the nearby Tri-State area.

Once league play begins, it will go through the month of July and into early August with the same eight-team playoff format.

League Commissioners Chris and Diana Kolodziej were adamant since May they wanted to have a season, even if it was delayed or a bit shorter.

The exact game schedule was not available as of press time, but

it could be anywhere from six to 10 games. The normal regular season schedule has often been 10 or 11 games. Kolodziej said while the high school league rarely played games on the weekend, weekends would be utilized this summer in order to fit in as many games as possible.

One difference than in previous years due to many obvious reasons related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The A Division for high school boys will consist of many teams that are normally involved, including Ludlow, Belchertown,

Agawam, Wilbraham, and Chicopee. Pittsfield and Enfield are among newcomers to the league this year.

In the girls A Division, West Springfield, last year's champion, leads a field that includes Agawam, South Hadley, Monson, Ludlow, Wilbraham, and Belchertown. Enfield joins the league for the first time.

In the B Division, there are usually more teams. There are much fewer this summer. The Boys league has 12 teams. Palmer, South Hadley, Ludlow C, Agawam, Belchertown, and Wilbra-

ham all have B teams. Enfield also joins with a B team.

The girls B Division will also feature a new Enfield team, along with Chicopee Comp, Granby, Wilbraham B, Ludlow B, Belchertown B, Agawam B, and Hampshire Regional.

The Men's league will have just seven teams, including Lusitano Red and White and the Rumbleseat. Griffin's Café is also a returning team.

The women's division includes the Lusitano Women, Here For Beer, WMass XTremes, and Santos among returning teams.

BASEBALL

### Valley Wheel gets ready for July 9 start



SPRINGFIELD – The Valley Wheel Over-30 Baseball League has one final tryout on July 5 at 12 noon at Blunt Park in Springfield. The league still needs players as it plans to resume play with the first game scheduled for Thursday, July 9, and continuing through August.



League veterans hit fly balls to the rookies at the June 28 practice at Blunt Park in Springfield.



Steve Scibelli follows through on a throw after making a catch.



Valley Wheel League rookie players lineup to take fly balls. PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

Josh Catter throws the ball back to the infield.

ATHLETICS

## Questions still surrounding return of athletics this fall

**By Gregory A. Scibelli**  
*gscibelli@turley.com*

REGION – A fall season is being planned for, but it is still unclear what one might look like under the new landscape of a COVID-19 “new normal.”

According to numerous sources, Massachusetts is just one of a few states that is on a good track to lowering the infection rate of the coronavirus and keeping the healthcare system from being overloaded.

But as individuals wish to “head back on the field,” it leaves a lot of questions, which are jointly being considered by high schools and the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association.

Their first move was to postpone the use of MaxPreps as a ranking system for teams. It is supposed to a method used to provide uniformity as the state goes to a statewide tournament system and eliminates the sectional tournament format.

In Massachusetts, summers sports like baseball are looking to open up as part of Phase 3 and hold some type of competition.

But schools have still received a lot of guidance for how things will need to look in the fall, leaving a number of schools to consider whether a portion of their learning will be done remotely, as it was done during the past three and a half months.

Schools closer to Boston and possibly schools with larger populations like in Springfield will have to more seriously consider online options for school. The MIAA will then have to consider what that will do for eligibility requirements to play a sport. They will also have to consider transportation and other elements.

Normally, an individual must attend school by a certain time in



Sports

WSU planning Owl Golf Tournament

WESTFIELD – Registration for the 14th Annual Owl Club Golf Tournament is now open.

The tournament proceeds support Westfield State University varsity athletics and is slated for Monday, August 3, 2020, at The Ranch Golf Club in Southwick, Mass.

“Feedback from our alumni and regular players was overwhelming that they wanted us to run the tournament again this year, even in light of the COVID-19 pandemic,” said Associate Athletic Director Dave Caspole. “We consulted with the Ranch, and campus officials, and given that golf is an outdoor activity that can be conducted within the state’s reopening phases, we’ll run the tournament in the safest, most socially-distant ways we can while following all of the state and local guidelines.”

The tournament will feature an individual cart for each player, and the start is scheduled to have tee times rather than the typical shotgun start in order to limit the size of groups gathering. A maximum of 18 foursomes will be registered this year – half the regular total.

“Registered players will receive a tee gift, get their own cart, lunch will be served on the course, and we will have some contests,” said Caspole, who noted there will not be a post-tournament dinner,

again to limit the gathering size.

“We look forward to seeing the alumni, friends, parents and sponsors who regularly participate in the tournament, and given the disruptions that our student-athletes have faced this year, the funds we raise from the tournament will help to get our programs quickly back on track as we look to restart team competitions this fall,” added Caspole. “Westfield Bank is again our lead sponsor for the tournament, and we can’t thank the bank and president Jim Hagan enough for their support of our athletic programs.

The Ranch is a par-72 championship layout that plays about 6,500 yards from the tournament tees in a scramble format.

Last year the tournament was won by the group of Mark Litsky, Carlos Frittano, John Harkings, Anthony Perritano with a 58, winning a match of cards tiebreaker with the alumni group of Bob Verdolino, Ralph Barry, Matt Barry, Joe Seckler.

Registration for the tournament is available online at <https://westfieldstateowls.com/owl-club/golf-tournament/index>

Contact Dave Caspole for more registration information or for sponsorship opportunities at [dcaspole@westfield.ma.edu](mailto:dcaspole@westfield.ma.edu) or 413-572-5433.

Valley Wheel Baseball tryouts ongoing

Valley Wheel Baseball tryouts ongoing

REGION – The Valley Wheel Over-30 Baseball League is seeking new players for the upcoming 2020 season. The league is seeking players ages 28 and up. Players turning 28 this year are eligible. However, only players 30 and older can pitch. The league plays 15 regular season games with games being held mostly on Sundays with a couple of weekday games thrown in the mix as well as a special Mother’s Day Saturday game in early May. However, due to the current circumstances, the league schedule has been

pushed back. The league still plans to play its season once bans on gatherings are lifted. League tryouts are June 28 with a possible additional tryout scheduled. The league is built on comradery, fair play, and having a good time with friends. If interested in trying out, go to [www.valleywheelbaseball.com](http://www.valleywheelbaseball.com). The rules of the league and new player forms can be found on the site. For further information, you can contact the league’s commissioner, Jim Nason at [wheel12@comcast.net](mailto:wheel12@comcast.net) or call him at (413) 433-4308. New players are still needed for the abbreviated season

ATHLETICS from page 1

order to be eligible to practice or participate in a contest that day. Many teams also require a player participate in practice the day before in order to be eligible to play. But if a player is not required to physically be in school, how will that be handled by the MIAA?

The “New Normal” until a vaccine has been secured for the coronavirus will still likely involve requiring individuals to wear masks or face coverings and to socially distance whenever possible.

In certain sports, like football, contact is inevitable. Football also draws large crowds on a Friday night, and those will need to be controlled as well.

The MIAA has already appointed a COVID-19 Task Force that is looking at many of these issues. The Task Force has not held a formal meeting like many of the MIAA sub-committees, but has is-

sued some different guidance on opening sports.

The Pioneer Valley is represented on the committee by Carol Kruser, the principal of Chicopee High School.

Among the measures that have been brought forward so far: Schools will have the right to choose how their academic eligibility for the fall will be based on since formal grading was set aside during the final three months of the school year. Chemical health suspensions are being waived for the spring. Anyone currently serving any type of suspension will receive credit for “time served” for the spring season.

As of press time, the fall season is scheduled to start on Monday, Aug. 24. Football practices will begin on Friday, Aug. 21. A Q&A done by the MIAA also states that championship venues are set to host games this fall as of now.

Holyoke rookie makes early impact in Street Stock event

WINCHESTER, NH: This past Saturday, Monadnock Speedway received the green light from the State of New Hampshire to host the 2020 Season Opener. The race teams and fans were excited to finally get back to the track at the high banked ¼ mile.

First feature of the night was the Pure Stocks as Mike Douglas (Northfield, Ma) was the early leader. Bruce Clark (Greenfield, Ma) was all over the back bumper of the Douglas machine as Sammy Silva (Alstead, NH) ran third. Lap 17, a caution flew for Reagan Buffum (Surry, NH) for an overheating issue. On the restart, Douglas and Clark ran side by side as Douglas regained the lead. On the last lap, Clark went to the inside of Douglas coming out of turn four and at the line, it was Clark for the win followed by Douglas, Silva, Damon Roy (Claremont, NH), JD Stockwell (Turners Falls, Ma). In a post race inspection, Clark was disqualified for a rules infraction with the win being rewarded to Douglas.

Mini Stocks came rolling off the track with some competitors not able to make the feature event due to various hard wrecks during the qualifier. Kevin Clayton (Fitzwilliam, NH) led the field early. Gordon Farnum (Fitzwilliam, NH) ran a close second with Tim Leblanc (Hinsdale, NH) in third. By lap six, Leblanc moved into second and began to challenge Clayton for the lead. Two laps later, Leblanc spun Clayton out of the lead as the caution flew and Leblanc was sent to the rear. Farnum led the field to the restart as Nathan Wenzel (Granby, Ma) and Shelby Avery (Bernardston, Ma) battled for third. Farnum began to cruise away from the rest of the field, Avery looked to the inside of Wenzel for the pass but

was denied. At the checkers, it was Farnum followed by Wenzel, Avery, Doug Curry (Norwich, CT) and Leblanc.

Rookie Tim Wenzel (Holyoke, MA) set the pace for the Street Stock feature event. Chris Curtis (Rutland, MA) moved into the lead early as Wenzel attempted to hold off Hillary Renaud (Vernon, CT). Few laps later, Jaret Curtis (Rutland, MA) was knocking on the back bumper of Renaud for third. At the half way mark, Chris Curtis pulled away from the field as Jaret Curtis almost made it three wide for second but backed off as Wenzel remained in second. Lap twenty-two, the caution flew for a flat on Chris Riendeau’s race machine. On the restart, Chris Curtis held the lead as Jaret Curtis moved into second with Jimmy Renfrew (Candia, NH) glued to his back bumper. Final lap, Chris Curtis took down the victory followed by his son Jared Curtis, Jimmy Renfrew, Chris Buffone and Tim Wenzel.

It was a battle from the past for the Late Model Sportsman feature event as Tyler Lescord (Claremont, NH), Aaron Fellows (Croydon, NH) and Adam Gray (Granby, Ma) battled it out for the lead. Gray quickly took the lead but felt pressure from Fellows who ran second. Robert Hagar (Windsor, VT) worked on the back bumper of Lescord for third. Lap 10, a caution flew for Camdyn Curtis who hit the front stretch wall. On the restart, Fellows took over the lead. Lap 17, another caution flew for Bill Johnston. On the restart, Fellows continued to lead as Gray and Hagar ran side by side for second. Hagar made the pass as Fellows gained a good lead from the rest of the pack. At the wave of the checkered flag, it was Fellows followed by Hagar,

Gray, Justin Littlewood (Athol, Ma) and Lescord.

The NHSTRA Modifieds took the track for the final NASCAR Advanced Auto Parts weekly division of the night. Matt Kimball (Bennington, NH) took the early lead followed by Ben Byrne (Deerfield, Ma) and Brian Robie (Sunapee, NH). An early caution came out for Brad Zahensky in the back stretch wall. The field was able to get in one more lap until the caution flew again for rookie Solomon Brow. On the restart, Kimball continued to lead followed by Robie. Byrne and Trevor Bleau (Troy, NH) battled for third. On lap 13, Kimball was shuffled back to sixth place as Robie took the lead. Lap 16, the caution flew for Kimball who suffered a flat tire. On the restart, the field attempted to complete a lap until Brian Chapin spun in turn four causing multiple cars to head into the pits for repair. On the restart, Robie led the field followed by Byrne, Bleau, Scott MacMichael (Newport, NH) and Todd Patnode (Swanzy, NH). Lap 25, Byrne moved into the inside of Robie and took the lead. On lap 37, the caution was out again as JT Cloutier, who suffered earlier damage from the Chapin spin, spun to the infield. On the restart, the caution flew again for Brow as he headed to pit row. The final restart was single file and on the final lap it was Byrne followed by Robie, Bleau, Kimball and Patnode. In a post race inspection, Byrne was disqualified with first place being awarded to Robie.

This Saturday, racing will return to the high banks of Monadnock Speedway featuring all the weekly divisions. Race Time is at 6PM.

Senior athletes features wrapping up

By Gregory A. Scibelli  
[gscibelli@turley.com](mailto:gscibelli@turley.com)

The Turley Publications sports department will soon be wrapping up its features on senior spring athletes

If you have not seen your senior or their sport featured, we encouraged you to send photos and info on your son or daughter, and encourage you to contact

their coach to speak with us.

We have reached out to spring coaches and athletic directors, but are still trying to collect info on every team that would have been involved in this spring’s season.

We hope to also publish action photos of seniors from previous seasons, though parents and coaches are encouraged to send photos of seniors they would like

to see published in the upcoming editions of the paper.

All submissions can be made to Sports Editor Gregory A. Scibelli at [sports@turley.com](mailto:sports@turley.com). In the subject line, please identify the school and sport you are writing in about. Senior athletes are also encouraged to write in to talk about the season that wasn’t.

Quabbin League hoping for mid-July start

REGION – The Quabbin Valley Over-30 Baseball League is seeking new players for 2020 season. The league has six teams, several with open roster spots. Last year, the league voted to allow players age 28 and 29 to be able to join the league, though players under 30 are not eligible to pitch. The cost of the league this season is

\$192. For returning and new players, sign-ups have been placed on hold until a determination has been made on the season going forward. Sign-ups should resume soon. Based on the governor’s re-open plan, the league is aiming for a start to the season in mid-July with a modified schedule. Games are nine innings and

metal (BBCOR -3) or wood bats are allowed. Fields locations are throughout Western Mass. For more information on the league, or if you are interested in registering, go to <https://www.quabbin-valleybaseball.org/>. The league is also in Facebook.

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# Public Notices

**AGAWAM  
ZONING BOARD OF  
APPEALS  
LEGAL  
ADVERTISEMENT  
LEGAL NOTICE**

Notice is hereby given that the Agawam Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing at the Agawam Senior Center, 954 Main Street, Agawam, MA on **Monday, July 13, 2020 at 7:30PM** for all parties interested in the appeal of Cellco Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless, which is seeking a Special Permit in accordance with Ch.180, Article XIV of the Town of Agawam's Zoning Ordinances which would allow for the construction of a telecommunications wireless service facility at the premises identified as 128 Southwick Street. Public input phone number is (978) 990-5187, Access Code is 8476635.

**Doreen A. Prouty  
Chairperson**  
Agawam Zoning Board of Appeals  
6/25, 7/02/2020

**AGAWAM  
CONSERVATION  
COMMISSION  
LEGAL AD**

The Agawam Conservation Commission will meet remotely through WebEx at **5:45 PM on Thursday, July 9, 2020**. Information on how to join this remote meeting will be available on the Town of Agawam website at [www.agawam.ma.us](http://www.agawam.ma.us) or by contacting the Agawam Planning

Office. The purpose of this meeting will be to hear the application of TCR Properties, LLC for a Request for Determination of Applicability on property located at 1298 Suffield Street.

By Order of  
**Henry A. Kozloski,  
Chairman**  
AGAWAM CONSERVATION  
COMMISSION  
7/02/2020

**Commonwealth of  
Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Hampden Probate and  
Family Court  
50 State Street  
Springfield, MA 01103  
(413)748-7758  
Docket No. HD20P0981EA  
Estate of:  
Anthony Victor  
D'Ambrosio  
Date of Death: 02/23/2020  
CITATION ON  
PETITION FOR  
FORMAL  
ADJUDICATION**

To all interested persons:  
A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Duan Liu** of Feeding Hills, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: **Duan Liu** of Feeding Hills, MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in an **unsupervised** administration. **IMPORTANT NOTICE**  
You have the right to

obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 07/23/2020.**

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

**UNSUPERVISED  
ADMINISTRATION  
UNDER THE  
MASSACHUSETTS  
UNIFORM PROBATE  
CODE (MUPC)**

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.  
Date: June 25, 2020

**Suzanne T. Seguin**  
Register of Probate  
7/02/2020°

**Commonwealth of  
Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Hampden Probate and  
Family Court  
50 State Street  
Springfield, MA 01103  
Docket No. HD20P1006GD  
In the matter of:  
Sharon Pray  
Of: Agawam, MA  
RESPONDENT  
Alleged Incapacitated  
Person**

**CITATION GIVING  
NOTICE OF PETITION  
FOR APPOINTMENT OF  
GUARDIAN FOR  
INCAPACITATED  
PERSON PURSUANT TO  
G.L. c. 190B, §5-304**

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by **Agawam Healthcare** of Agawam, MA in the above captioned matter alleging that Sharon Pray is in need of a Guardian and requesting that Diane Estrada of Springfield, MA (or some other suitable person) be appointed as Guardian to serve **Without Surety** on the bond.

The petition asks the court to determine that the Respondent is incapacitated, that the appointment of a Guardian is necessary, and that the proposed Guardian is appropriate. The petition is on file with this court and may contain a request for certain specific authority.

**You have the right to object to this proceeding.** If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before **10:00**

**A.M. on the return date of 07/31/2020.** This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**  
The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person's right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be

appointed at State expense.  
WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.  
Date: June 26, 2020  
**Suzanne T. Seguin**  
Register of Probate  
7/02/2020

**Please check  
the accuracy of  
your legal notice  
prior to submission (i.e., date,  
time, spelling).  
Also, be sure  
the requested  
publication date  
coincides with  
the purpose of the  
notice, or as the  
law demands.  
Thank you.**

## How to submit legal notices

All legal notices to be published in the Agawam Advertiser News should be sent directly to [notices@turley.com](mailto:notices@turley.com). Please indicate the newspapers and publication date(s) for the notice(s) in the subject line of your email. For questions regarding coverage area, procedures or cost, please call Jamie Joslyn directly at 413-283-8393, ext. 216.

Turley Publications Inc. publishes 15 weekly newspapers throughout Western Massachusetts. Visit [www.turley.com](http://www.turley.com) for more information.

# Classifieds

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AND REPAIRABLE  
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413-219-6839

### PETS

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FOR ADOPTION  
SPAYED/NEUTERED, WORMED,  
SHOTS, HEARTWORM TESTED,  
TEETH CLEANED**

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CALL MARY AT 413-566-3129  
OR CLAIRE AT 413-967-9088  
OR GO TO  
WWW.GREYHOUNDOPTIONS.  
ORG**

### HORSES

**HORSEBACK RIDING LESSONS**  
offered year round at our state of the art facility. beginner to advanced. Ages 4 years to adult. Boarding, sales and Leasing also available. Convenient location at Orion Farm in South Hadley **(413)532-9753** [www.orionfarm.net](http://www.orionfarm.net)

**LEARN TO RIDE** jump, show! Beginner to advanced. Qualified instructors. boarding, training, leasing. IEA teams. Year round riding programs. Summer riding program July 6-10, July 13-17. Gift certificates available. **860-874-8077 Suffield, CT** [endofhunt.com](http://endofhunt.com)

**PART TIME RIDING INSTRUCTOR** wanted for leading show barn. Must be reliable, energetic with good attitude. Suffield, CT **860-874-8077**

### HELP WANTED

**DRIVER - CDL CLASS A** PNEUMATIC TANK & DUMP TRAILER. EXPERIENCED ONLY. RB Enterprises **413-583-8393**

**PART TIME HORSE GROOM**  
wanted for weekend mornings. Must be reliable, energetic with good attitude. Suffield, CT **860-874-8077.**

**TOWN OF LUDLOW IS HIRING - Production/Studio Asst.-Part Time.** Duties: Operate various audio, visual and production equip. in the filming of Town municipal mtgs & events for broadcast on LCTV; assist with other studio productions; and operate various office equip.

Must have: high school diploma or equiv, knowledge of Windows & Mac operating systems, quick decision-making ability, possess strong communication/organizational skills, valid driver's license & reliable transportation. Must be able to work independently, carry up to 40 lbs.

A degree in communications/media production, experience in public access TV, knowledge of TV/video production & techniques and Final Cut Pro X preferred. Subject to CORI check. Rate: \$15.9181/hr.

If interested submit a resume, cover letter and completed application (see website for app. - [www.ludlow.ma.us](http://www.ludlow.ma.us)) by July 10, 2020 to: HR@ludlow.ma.us or HR Dept, 488 Chapin St, Ludlow, MA 01056. Apps not accepted if incomplete or received after 7/10/20. Town of Ludlow is EOE/AA.

### REAL ESTATE

#### LAND FOR SALE

**25'X110' ROW LOT** W/ 40' waterfront on Holland Lake. Unbuildable. Possible dock and swimming. \$13,000 or BO **508-868-6157**

#### FOR RENT



**EQUAL HOUSING  
OPPORTUNITY**

**ALL REAL ESTATE** advertised herein is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act, which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation, or discrimination because of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin, or intention to make any such preference, limitation, or discrimination." We will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. All persons are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised are available on an equal opportunity basis.

Read your local  
newspaper online at  
[www.newspapers.turley.com](http://www.newspapers.turley.com)

### FOR RENT



#### Hampden Housing Authority Elderly/Handicapped Housing

Currently seeking applicants for our Elderly/Handicapped **TWO** bedroom housing program at **Centennial Commons** in Hampden, Mass. These units are located on the second floor. There are no elevators. The maximum net income for a two person household is \$54,650. Interested applicants may obtain a housing application by calling

**(413) 566-8157**

**EHO**

### VACATION RENTALS

**WARM WEATHER IS** Year Round In Aruba. The water is safe, and the dining is fantastic. Walk out to the beach. 3-Bedroom weeks available. Sleeps 8. Email: [carolaction@aol.com](mailto:carolaction@aol.com) for more information.

#### CLASSIFIED DEADLINES

**QUABBIN & SUBURBAN  
FRIDAY AT NOON  
HILLTOWNS  
MONDAY AT NOON**

### FOR RENT



All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968, which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status (number of children and or pregnancy), national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, or any intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination.

This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate that is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertising in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain about discrimination call The Department of Housing and Urban Development "HUD" toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. For the N.E. area, call HUD at 617-565-5308. The toll free number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.



# More Junior High awards

AGAWAM – Teachers from Agawam Junior High School joined forces and toured the town giving out end-of-school-year awards. Two weeks ago, a bus carrying the teachers went door-to-door greeting students they have not been able to see in person for more than three months. Awards went out to dozens of students for various subjects, honor roll, and perfect attendance.



Grace Moriarty is all smiles with her award and gift.



Adam Ross was an award winner from Agawam Junior High School



Aj Robbins

The family of A.J. Robbins celebrates his award. SUBMITTED PHOTOS



Evan Connery

Evan Connery is honored for his excellence during the school year.



Gabriella Manes

Gabriella Manes has lots of support from her family members.